

**ABSTRACT**

A false drum servers used in the manufacture of tires having a hollow cylindrical drum with a perforated surface on the drum through which air is drawn. The drawn air  
5 creating a suction surface for holding flat or sheet materials that are to be cut before  
transferring onto a tire building drum. When smaller pieces of flat materials are being held  
on the drum, the perforations that are not covered allow air to flow freely into the drum,  
thereby reducing the suction adhering effect of the perforated surface. The present invention  
provides methods and apparatus for varying the amount of perforated area through which air  
10 can be drawn into the drum, thereby changing the amount of suction adhering surface area of  
the perforated drum.

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